ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

Eleventh Annual Session

OF THE

HOPEWELL

OLD-SCHOOL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Emmaus Church, Lamar Co. Ala.

Oct. 18, 19, and 20, 1895.

OFFICERS.

G. W. NORRIS. - - - - - - MODERATOR.

L. M. WIMBERLEY. - - - - - CLERK.

The next session of this Association will be held with Zion church, Pickens county, Ala., Commencing on Friday before the 4th Sunday in September '1896.

COURIER-PRINT; VERNON, ALA.

MINUTES.

October, 18th, 1895.

1. The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder A J Coleman, from Matt. 5th chapter, latter clause of the 14th v .,"A city set upon a hill cannot be hid."

2. After an intermission of one hour, the delegates reassembled in the house, called the the names of the churches and enrolled the delegates as the table will show.

3. Elected G W Norris Moderator, and L M Wimberley Clerk.

4. Opened the door of the Association for the reception of churches

5. Appointed a committee of arrangement, and agreed to adopt the minutes of last year.

6. Appointed a committee on finance, viz: H M Banksfon, and D T Moore.

7. Appointed a committee on preaching, viz: J D Spencer, J O Sullivan, F M McCool, J F Davis, J I L McMillen, Gilbert Moore, G W Berry, W M Ward, J A Brown, W B Mathews, and S H Hankins.

8. Appointed W R Brown to write a letter of correspondence to sister Associations.

9. Arranged Union Meeting as follows: 1st district to convene with Liberty Hill church on Friday before the 4th Sunday in August, 1896. 2nd district, with Little Hope church on Friday before the 2nd Sunday in August 1896.

10. Called for correspondence from sister Association which was responded to as follows: From Pilgrims Rest, a letter and minutes came by her messengers, A J Coleman, J M Carver, and W H Daniel. From Buttahatchie, a letter and minutes by her messengers, M S Flippo L G Pullen L J Jones, W R Sherfield and W P Dean. From Lost Creek, a letter and bundle of minutes. From Five Mile Creek, a bundle of minutes. All of which were cordially received by the moderator extending the right hand.

11. Adjourned to 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. Prayer by Elder D T Moore

Saturday, October 19th, 1895.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder A J McWhorter.

12. Called the roll and found a quorum present for business.

13. Renewed the call for correspondence.

14. Invited ministering brethren to seats with us.

15. Called on the committee on preaching, who reported as follows: Elders R F Papisan and J M Carver preach in the forenoon, and C H Davis and D T Moore in the afternoon.

16. Appointed correspondence to sister Associations, viz: To Pilgrims Rest, F M McCool, J O Sullivan, H M Bankston, R F Papisan, S J Norris, J D Spencer and Robert Moore. To Buttahatchie, W R Cunningham, S H Hankins, Gilbert Moore, F M McCool, J C Smith. To Little Hope. R F Papisan, W P Williamson. To Lost Creek, G W Dodson, W R Cunningham, J C Smith, L M Wimberley, W M Ward. To Five Mile Creek, G W Norris and L M Wimberley. To Little Black; C H Davis, and G W Berry.

17. Agreed that the next session of this body be held with Zion church, Pickens county, Ala., to commence on Friday before the 4th Sunday in Sept. 1896.

18. Appointed the Clerk Treasurer.

19. Called on the finance committee who reported, viz:

Contrubutions this year	$15.10.
In the hands of the Treasurer	3.60

20. Appointed the clerk to superintend the printing of the minutes, have 400 copies printed, reserve for correspondence, and distribute remainder among the churches.

21. Compensate the clerk $8 00 for his services.

22. Requested the moderator to tender the thanks of this body to the brethren and friends of this vicinity for their kindness and hospitality extended to us while with them.

23. Appointed Elder A J McWhorter, D T Moore and G W Norris to preach on Sunday.

24. Called for the letter of correspondence which was handed in by the writer, read, received and ordered to be inserted in the minutes.

25. Opened the door for promiscuous business.

26. Appointed a committee of three, viz: R F Papisan, H M Bankston and J O Sullivan to investigate the request of Concord church asking the Association to take special cognizance of a personal grievance between mem-

bers, and send a partial committee to say who was right and who was wrong in the exercise of a power not delegated or authorized by her organic laws.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

We your committee, after carefully and impartially considering the question intrusted to us, decide that the Association can not grant the request of Concord church. Report received and committee discharged.

27. Agreed to have our Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum with the scriptural proof printed.

28. Read the minutes for correction.

29 Adjourned to time and place of next annual meeting.

G. W. NORRIS, MODERATOR.

L. M. WIMBERLEY, CLERK

The brethren appointed to preach on Sunday appeared in order, and addressed a very large audience. demonstrating the complete control and direction of the spirit.

CLERK.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Hopewell Old School Baptist Association, in her Eleventh Annual Session, to her sister Associations with whom she corresponds, GREETING:

Very Dear Brethren: Through the goodness and mercy of God, we are again blessed to meet in our 11th Annual Session with Emmaus church, Lamar county, Ala. And we are happy to state that the business of our body is progressing peacably and harmoniously, for which we feel thankful to Almighty God. Dear brethern, your correspondence, though not as full as we would desire, were all cordially received, and we earnestly desire a continuance of the same. The next session of our body will convene with Zion church, Pickens county, on Friday before the 4th Sunday in September 1896, when and where we hope to meet you all in friendly correspondence again. Dear brethren pray for us, and may God by his spirit guide us in the way of all truth.

G. W. NORRIS, MODETATOR.

L. M. WIMBERLEY, CLERK.

CONSTITUTION.

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the churches in our Union, who, on producing letters certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

2. Letters from the different churches are to express their number in fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated or dead since the last Association.

3. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known as the Hopewell Old School Baptist Association who shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, or to refringe on any of the internal rights of the churches in our Union, but shall merely be considered an advisory council in matters respecting their internal concerns, for the common benefit of all such churches; but the Association shall have power to exclude any church from the Union who shall violate or deviate from the rules of the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

4. Every church in the Union shall be entitled to three messengers, and should any church fail or neglect to represent herself, she shall state the reason of such failure in her next letter to the Association.

5. New churches may be admitted into the Union, who shall petition by letter and messengers, and, upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received, and the reception thereof manifested by the moderator giving the right hand

6. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by regular proper rules of Decorum, which it is authorized to form for itself.

7. The Association shall appoint a moderator from amongits members, for the time being, whose duty it shall be to see that the Rules of Decorum be observed and take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before it; also, a clerk shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of their proceedings.

8. Every query sent by a particular church must be enclosed in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to settle it, but could not; in which case the Association shall take it under consideration, and give its advice.

9. Querries which immediately concern the Union or the state of the churches at large, when sent by a particular church as form them, or handed in by proper motion

and seconded, shall be taken up and decided on as soon as opportunity will permit.

10. The Association shall have a fund for the support of the same, which shall be supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, whose duty it shall be to send it by the hands of her messengers, which moneys shall be deposited in the hands of the treasurer, who shall be accountable to the Association for all moneys by him received.

11. The clerk shall keep a file of the minutes of each year's proceedings, which shall serve as a record for the Association.

12. The Association in all cases shall be governed by a majority of the members present.

14. The Associations, shall correspond with other association as may be agreed on while in session.

14. The Association shall at her first session, appoint a committee, consisting of one from each church represented, (ministers excepted) whose duty in shall be to arrang preaching until the next Association is organized, and if advised by the Association, appoint a brother to write a Circular Letter for the next year, which rule shall be observed at every session thereafter.

15. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of its proceedings.

16. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any time when two-thirds of the churches composing the Association may deem it necessary.

17. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, signed by the moderator and attested by the clerk, before the Association rises.

18. Resolved, That we will not hold in our Union any church or churches, who hold in their fellowship any member or members who will not renounce every secret order or clan—political or religionus—whether past present or to come, or that claims, or expresses by word or act any interest therein, directly or indirectly, whether for oath or honor's sake, or personal interest or paternal advantage of such, whether at home or abroad, sick or well, in adversity, prosperity, or in any condition, or for any cause not herein mentioned; WE MUST NOT, WE CAN NOT, WE WILL NOT FELLOWSHIP OR COMMUNE WITH THEM.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. But one person shall speak at a time, and shall rise to his feet and address the moderator.

3. No person shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject, or uses words of personal reflection.

4. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by the person making it, and if there are two or more motions before the Association at the same time, and on the same subject, the first shall have the preference.

5. Every case taken up by the Association shall be disposed of before another is offered.

6. When anything is taken up by the Association, after allowing reasonable time for debates, the moderator shall take the question, and those in favor of the thing proposed, rise to their feet, and those against it shall keep their seats. The decision thus made shall be announced immediately.

7. No person shall depart from the service of the Association without leave.

8. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave, nor shall any person be made to close the subject until the debates are gone through with.

9. The appellation of brother shall be used in addressing each other.

10. The moderator shall be entitled to the same liberty of speech as any other member, provided he appoint some other member to fill the chair while speaking, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided.

11. Any person breaking the Rules of Decorum shall be reproved as the Association may think proper.

ARTICLES OF FAITH, WITH SCRIPTURAL PROOFS.

1. We believe in one only true and living God: The Father, the Word and Holy Ghost and these three are one. Proof: "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God; and the word was God." John 1:1 "For there are three that bear record in Heaven—the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one." John 5:7.

2. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New

Testaments are the word of God; and the only rule of faith and practice. Proof: "For the prophecy came not in the old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2nd Peter 1:21. "All scriptures is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2nd Timothy 3:16—17.

3. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace, according to the foreknowledge of God, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world. Proof: "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and and without blame before Him in love." Eph. 1:4. "Moreover, whom He did predestinate, them He also called, and whom He called, them He also justified, and whom He justified, them He also glorified." Rom. 8:30.

4. We believe in the fall of man, and that he is incapable of recovering himself there from. Proof: "No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him.' John 6:44. "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the Leopard his spots? then ye may also do good, that are accustomed to do evil." Jeremirah 13:3.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Proof: "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2nd Cor. 5:21.

6. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and never fall finally away. Proof: "And I gave unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish." John 10:28 "For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall ye appear with him in glory." Col. 3:3—4.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called and regenerated by the Holy Spirt. Proof: "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2, 39. "Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose, and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." 2nd Tim. 1:9.

8. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and unjust, and a general judgement, and the joys of

the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked, shall be eternal. Proof: "Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming in which all that are in their graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth, they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28. "Because He hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world, by that man whom he hath ordained." Acts 17:31.

9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and that immersion in water is the mode, and that persons administering the ordinances, who differ from the foregoing, either in faith or practice are, by us, not regarded as legal. Proof: "Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus, also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art My beloved Son; in Thee I am well pleased." Luke 3:21–22. "Jesus took bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to His deciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body; and He took the cup and gave thanks and gave it ot them, saying drink ye all of it." Mat. 26:26–27.

10. We believe that no minister has the right to the administration of the ordinances only such as are regularly baptized, called and come under the imposition of the Presbytery. Proof: "The Holy Ghost said seperate me, Barnabas, and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them, and when they had fasted and prayed and laid their heads on them they sent them away." Acts 13: 2–3 "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery." 1st Tim. 4:14

11. We believe that none but regularly baptized persons have a right to commune at the Lord's table, nor can we, as an association acknowledge as valid the administration of any other denomination, be their profession or mode what it may. Proof: "We have an alter whereof they have no right to act, which serve the taberracle." Heb 10:13. From the top of the Rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him; lo the people shall dwell alone and shall not be reconed among the nations.

CHURCHES.	PASTOR.	DELEGATES.	Annual Meetings.	Sabbath Meetings	Baptized	Received by Letter	Dismissed	Excluded	Restored	Deceased.	Total Number.	Contributions
1st District.												
Nazareth	G W Norris	G W Norris, R F Papisan	Sept 2	2	1	..	..	..	2	..	42	$2 00
Pleasant Ridge	D T Moore.	D T Moore, J O Sullivan		3	1	..	..	..	..	..	13	1 00
Zion	G W Norris	H M Bankston, F M McCool	Aug 3	3	..	2	1	..	..	1	22	2 00
Liberty Hill	W R Brown	W R Brown	Sept 1	4	1	..	..	..	..	1	26	1 50
Mt. Zion	D T Moore	Not represented		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Harmony	" "	Gilbert Moore, Thos Moore		4	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	1 50
2nd District.												
Hopewell	G W Norris	C H Davis, G W Berry, G W Dodson	Aug 3	3	..	..	..	8	1	2	25	1 50
Union	J W Brock	W M Ward, S South, J H Dodson	Aug 1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	37	2 00
Little Hope	" "	J A Brown, H A Brock, P C Guin (ews		2	1	..	..	..	..	..	17	1 00
Emmans	L M Wimberley	L M Wimberley, W A Chandler W B Math	July 4	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	21	1 50
New Hope	J W Brock	W R Cunningham, S H Hankins J C	May 4	4	1	..	2	..	..	..	15	1 10
Concord	J M Smith	Not represented (Smith.										